

**GOOD NEWS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
AND
SEMINARY**

**HISTORY OF DIVINE CHURCH
OF
CANAAN**

(1969 – 2007)

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**PRESENTED
TO
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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

PREAMBLE

OUTLINE OF THE PAPER

CHAPTER ONE

THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CHURCH

- 1.0 THE PRESENT SIZE OF THE CHURCH**
- 1.1 THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.**
- 1.2 THE LOCATION OF THE CHURCH**
- 1.3 THE REASON FOR WRITING THIS HISTORY**
- 1.4 THE IDENTITY OF THE RESEARCHER.**

CHAPTER TWO

THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE FOUNDER

BIRTH AND PARENTAL BACK GROUND

2.1 EDUCATION

2.2 THE WORKING EXPERIENCE

2.3 THE MARITAL STATUS.

2.4 THE RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND AND THE CALL TO MINISTRY.

CHAPTER THREE

THE FORMATION OF THE CHURCH

3.1 WHERE THE CHURCH WAS STARTED

3.2 THE DEATH OF THE FOUNDER

3.3 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

CHAPTER FOUR

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

4.1 THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF REV. EMMANUEL KOFI LAMPTEY

4.2 THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF REV. EMMANUEL KOFI LAMPTEY

4.3 THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF REV. EMMANUEL KOFI LAMPTEY

CHAPTER FIVE

THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

5.1 THE PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH

5.2 A TYPICAL OF THE CHURCH

5.3 A TYPICAL SUNDAY SERVICE PROGRAMME

5.4 A TYPICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE PROGRAMME.

CHAPTER SIX

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

6.1 THE STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZATION OVER ALL UNIFIED ORGANIZATION.

6.2 LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

6.3 THE PASTORAL EDUCATION

6.4 THE ROLE OF THE LAY PEOPLE

6.5 THE CHURCH TODAY AND FUTURE

6.6 OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION

6.7 THE EFFECTS AND IMPACT OF THE CHURCH

6.8 THE CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS (BYELAWS)

6.9 PERFORMANCE AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CHURCH

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE SUGSESSION

7.1 THE CONCLUSION

7.2 THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION

PREAMBLE

Among the Christian organization there are some classification written the organization, namely the Pentecostal, the charismatic, and Orthodox which are known as the main line organization (churches). But there is one particular Christian organization which is also called the SPIRITUAL CHURCHES and it is classified as African Independent Churches has their history written down for the present and future purposes which would always keep reminding them of where they are originated from. But African Churches has never thought of keeping a written document prior to the formation of their churches. All the information is or is kept in suspense in one maris mind. In Ghana it is called in out local languages of follows, Sunsum Sore in Akan, Gbogbome Soleme in Ewe and Momo Suleme in Ga. Actually African independent Churches is founded by Africans themselves. The African Churches has special features which show who they are as African churches. Almost about 80% do wear white garments and 20% do not wear their cloths. Most of the leaders carry spiritual rods or staff, not all of them burn candles or incense. The African Independent Churches laid or stress on the work of the Holy Spirit, referred to the several revelations and healings also, they re-interpret Christianity in the local culture to meet the needs of the people. During their worship service the African Independent Churches (ACCS) put on their cassock and they dance on the traditional lyrics, songs, drumming, ringing of bells and also used some local musical instruments. Fridays and Wednesdays are their healing service days.

The African Independent Churches also believed in Visions, dreams, prophecy, divine healing and they encouraged woman to take up position in the Churches. They are encouraged to participate in the ministry and also give them opportunities for leadership and to exercise their God given potentials in vested in them.

The African Churches has their own mode of worship and they vary in their dancing, drumming, songs, lyrics and they all get involved in church activities. They vary in belief, doctrines and very colorful way of presenting the Gospel message.

Their Administrative set up also structured differently and the way of leadership structured. The only problem they have is not having any document that shows the History of the CHURCH.

CHAPTER ONE

THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CHURCH.

This very church is known as DIVINE CHURHC OF CANAAN. It was formally called (AKA) DIVINE PRAYER GROUP which was established in 1969. the interest lies in the skills, the talents, abilities, knowledge, energy, intelligence and the Capability of the founder Bishop Emmanuel Kofi Lamptey and the people at large who go to him for prayers and to helped solved their problems.

The Divine Church of Canaan beliefs in prayers, fastening, studying of the word of God, healing prophecy, Vision and other gifting which is related to the Scriptures. For it is one of the African Independent Churches (ACCS) and member of General Council for Pentecostal Churches Ghana.

1.0 THE PRESENT SIZE OF THE CHURCH

The present size of the church is about 50 in numerical strength. The church is currently running only one stream service. It is only the Head Quarters. Which is alive now?

The breakdown is as follows:

The children – 5

The youth - 10

The men – 15

The women – 20

Grand total membership is 50 including the Pastors.

1.1 THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

The present leadership is made up of the Pastor in charge and Administrative committees and other executive members of the church runs the affairs of the church. The name of the Head Pastor is Rev. Enest Akpalo and his two associate helps in the activities of the church.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF THE FF.

1. Spiritual Leader as President
2. Chairman of the finance committee
3. chairman of the Administrative committee
4. One Elder
5. One member of the congregation.

Admin

1.2 THE LOCATION OF THE CHURCH

The divine church of Canaan is situated at Kotobabi, a suburb in the Ayawaso District of Accra, in the Greater Accra Region and located at Abavana Down, opposite the former Academy of Accountancy building.

1.3 THE REASON FOR WRITING THE HISTORY

It is very important for any organization to keep its records or document in connection to its formation. Because of this I delve into the History of the Church to help them have a written document or evidence of the present members and future ones to be born.

1.4 THE IDENTITY OF THE RESEARCHER

Robert. Y. Sewor is my name and Pastor and leader of Green Pastures Fellowship at Pig-Farm a suburb of Kotobabi in the Ayawaso District in Accra, in the Greater Accra Region, and located at Abavana Down, Opposite the Cluster Schools about a meters away from Club 1000 or Robert Motors. Also a student of Good News Theological College and Seminary at Oyibi along the Dodowa Road about 100 meters away from Valley View University.

CHAPTER TWO

THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE FOUNDER BIRTH AND PARENTAL BACKGROUND

In relation to the birth and parental background, Rev. Ernest Akpaloo narrated that Bishop Emmanuel Kofi Lamptey is the presiding Bishop and founder of Divine prayer Group which was later on change or renamed Divine Church of Canaan.

Bishop E. K Lamptey was born Twins in 1922 to the families of Opanyin Lamptey (Father) of Nii Lamptey Djan We Stool in the Asere Division of Accra, then a Merchant of no mean repute, residing and Working with (Millar) U.A.C of Ghana at Akanteng, near Asamankese, in the Eastern Region and Madam Akua Oforiwaa, affectionately known as Akua Oyinka of Akanteng who hailed from the Agona No. 2 Clan of Akanteng-Akim. The twin Brother, not lucky or Unfortunately stop loving while both were very infantile stage, hence he became known and named Kofi Attah at Akanteng, up to date. He being the 8th or eighth in the line of birth of his parents children. Therefore he was giving a special care, but when the father noticed that all the children had died, with the only 2 two of them namely. LAMIORKOR also affectionately called Abena Nyamekye and Kofi Attah. The father, Opanyin Lamptey decided to transport them down to Accra, to his niece Madam Esinye Adjeley, who works hard to care for them in 1930.

2.1 EDUCATION

Bishop E.K Lamptey only spent a few days with the parents at Akenteng from 1922 – 1929. In 1930 when he arrival in Accra and settled down with the niece Madam Esi nye Adjeley.

He was old enough to be enrolled in and attended the Government Boys School Adabraka from 1930 – 1939 where he passed the standard 7th seven school leaving certificate Examination. His best subject was English language and Arithmetics. The best hobbies were reading and the best game is football. He did help the niece and the parents very well until he gain employment.

2.2 THE WORKING EXPERIENCE

After the completion of his standard 7th in 1939. He was employed by Elder Dempster lines, a Shipping Agency in Accra, as a tally Clerk. He started working at the age 18 years with the Shipping Agency in Accra. Whiles working he was able to combined the church activities without any problem. He did work hard to run through the various promotions until he was appointed Senior Clerk at the Shipping Agency. After the days activities or work, he then go the church house to minister unto people who comes to find solution to their problems. He was very skillful, talented, abilities, knowledge, energy, intelligence and the capabilities of handling situations both in the house, church and the work place. He was motivated by the father and who encourage him to work hard to earned his respect and every honour done to him, at the work place. With about over twenty years of working experience. He did helped many people who came around him with problem.

2.3 MARITAL STATUS

Whiles working with the Shipping Agency in Accra. He Bishop Emmanuel .K. Lamptey meet with Madam Grace Adwoa Ampomaa of Akyem Achiase, the third child of Mr. Kwaku Toli and Mama Adowa Yareaya of Achiase was born in 1935 at Akyem or Achin Achiase. By then Madam Grace Adwoa Ampomaa was a famous Mokola woman who trade in children clothing, as a hard working woman got married to Bishop Emmanuel .K. Lamptey in the Customary way. Madam Grace Adwoa Ampomaa was educated through the masseducation system in those days. She was enrolled to learn dressmaking (fashion designer). She had been a clear wife to him from the beginning up to date. The gave birth to five (5) children 2 girls and 3 boys. Their names of children is as follows:

1. Samuel Lamptey (AKA) Papa nii
2. francis Appiah
3. evans Koranteng
4. Agnes Esi Koranteng and Helina Opoku

Also they had ten grandchildren.

He did also married to Ga woman and Ada woman and had children with them also. The names of the children are Akwetey and Attey by the Ga woman and Odartey, charles, Teyi Lamptey, Quay Lamptey the Ada woman. The name of the mother is not known.

2.4 RELIGION BACKGROUND AND THE CALL TO MINISTRY

Bishop E.K Lamptey was brought up in the Methodist faith by his parents. But when he was send down to Accra, and staying with the niece Madam Esi Nye Adjeley, he found himself at the Nima Aladura Temple (church) where was gifted with the apostolic calling through which he do exercise authority through the manifestation of gift of healing, prophecy vision and other spiritual gifts.

During his young days he was committed to all the activities of the Aladura church. Bishop Emmanuel Kofi Lamptey grew strong in spirit and physical. Here the word of God in study prayer, fasten, healing was predominate in the church especially the Head Pastor. He did educate himself through Seminars, and conference which he attends.

He served in the church for many years until he decided to start his own church. He was a source of inspiration to the young ones in the church and the outsiders. He became very famous through his good deeds or work both in Ghana and Aboard. He was inspired and motivated by the father. For that matter He took the steps of his father, through Opanyin Lamptey he Methodist church at Akanteng was established and it is growing from strength to strength. Bishop Emmanuel . K. Lamptey had the vision and the call to establish a place of worship for the lord. This mission he pursued with all egarment, thus the founding of the Divine church of Cannan through the mysterious act of God, over which he had been the shepherd for many years. Rev. Mantey, Rev. Evans O.D Arther were his colleagues and mentors in the ministry. He was known by his encourage words "EBE GYAE SE SEAA". It was not a mean thing that God raised him up to be a shepered in his own ministry which is called Divine church of Cannan. He did private studies to enhance his ministry activities. At the end of it he was able to manifest the gifts and the administratively handle the church very well. He did also attended congress of the association such as the National, Regional and the District ones to enhance himself in the knowledge of ministry

CHAPTER THREE

FORMATION OF THE CHURCH

CAUSES AND REASONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

When Bishop Emmanuel Kofi Lamptey found himself at the Nima Alaclura Temple, where he ~~was~~ gifted with spiritual healing, prophecy and other spiritual gifts knowing that many people comes to him for prayers and their problems are being solved through the prayers he offered for the people. Because of his patience, Torrance, kindness and having God's qualities, he won the heart of one of his members called Mr. Robert Ametepey who willing gave him an apartment in his house for his ministry. He had informal education in the Aladura Church leaders in which he had theological knowledge and he was very close to the senior pastor and other associate pastors. He later acquired this land on which the Divine church of Canaan is presently located through one Madam Susana Oko Mensah. He ~~left~~ Aladura church peacefully and establish.

Because of his spiritual gift of healing and prophecy lead him to be invited by one Mr. Neupet to German to minister to their families and friends of Mr. Neupet. On his returned Bishop E.K. Lamptey had a discussed how to helped the church and he Mr. Neupet promised to promote the vision of the Bishop. His house is always full of people because he is ever ready to share the little that he had with everyone. From a humble beginning, God raised him to affect his generation with an Apostolic calling. He was ordained as ravened between 1974 and 1975 by General council for Pentecostal churches. *by whom*

The church situated at Kotobabi a suburb in the Ayawaso District of Accra, in the Greater Accra Region and located at Abavana Down, opposite the former Academy of Accountancy building. From the beginning the church faces so many challenges some of the challenges are persecution from the people of the environment and internal family challenges also some of the members leaving to other churches due to misunderstanding among themselves. Economic hardship and not getting the actual helpers to build the structures of the church in time at that time.

Then also not getting a permanent place of worship that is moving the church from one place to another until they had present place of worship.

3.1 WHERE THE CHURCH WAS STARTED

Bishop E.K Lamptey with the wife Grace Adowa Ampomaa Lamptey and other few people including some children started a fellowship known as a Divine Prayer group in 1969. some of the members are Ampomah Darko, Mr. Torteme who introduce them to this land where the church is presently located. Madam Theresa Williams as a patroners, M.A. Wiafe as General Secretary, Mr. F.O Squire, Rev Enest Akpaloo including some youths and wives, all with their children. Infact through MadamSusana Oko Mensah usually known as "ABUI" She constructed a wooden structure which they used for sometime and later built with blocks this mighty building in which they worship up till now. The people continued coming to him for prayers and associating themselves to the fatherly love and care for them. Meeting the people. The name and picture of the church has gained recognition in the Ghanaian Cultural studies book 2(two). He had many awards both at home and abroad. Which erned him the Title Dr. Bishop Emmanuel Lamptey.

Report
Some of the children were youths they are between 15 and 18 years of age. The days of their meeting is Sundays 9am-12:30 noon, Wednesdays and Friday 7pm-9pm each day and some times organized programes in the evenings in the Wooden Structure. Because of his Spiritual gifts of healing and prophecy lead him to be invited by one Mr. Neupet to German to minister to their families and friends of Mr. Neupets on his returned Bishop E.K Lamptey had a discussion with Mr. Neupet on how to helped the church and He Mr. Neupet promised to promote the vision of the Bishop E.K Lamptey. His house is always full of people because he is ever ready to share the little that he had with every one who comes to his abode for help

or assistance. From a humble beginning, God raised him to affect his generation with an Apostolic calling he was ordained as Reverend Minister between 1974 and 1975 by the General Council for Pentecostal Churches. (G.C.P.C). The church situated at Kotobabi a suburb in the Ayawaso District of Accra, in the Greater Accra Region and located at Abavana Down, Opposite the former Academy of Accounting building from the beginning the church faces many Challenges. Some of the Challenges are persecution from the people of the environment and internal family challenges also some of the members leaving to other churches due to misunderstanding among themselves.

The economic hardship and not getting the actual helpers to build the structures of the church in time at the time.

Then also not getting a permanent place of worship, that is moving the church from one place to another until they finally had the present place of worship.

3.2 THE DEATH OF THE FOUNDER

Bishop Emmanuel K. Lamprey. He suddenly fell sick around August, 1995 and unfortunately death laid its icy hands on him the 12th Feb. 1996. He did fought a good fight and earned him a crown of glory in the bosom of the father Almighty.

The wife Grace also passed away peacefully in sleep on April 24th, 2004. May their soul rest in peace (RIP).

3.3 ESTABLISHING THE CHURCH

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16:18)

In the late 60's there was a new spiritual movement appear on the West African Continent, Accra Ghana in the Ayawaso District of Accra and situated at Kotobabi. The movement is rooted in the Christian faith and scripture and seeks its ideological super structure based on the religion reflections in close association with the prayer group organization.

The new movement was known as Divine Prayer group which was birth atera of the wave of spiritual movement (Spiritual church) this group were believers of the gospel and it's leader was Rev. Emmanuel .K. Lamprey. At that time it was not a church per day but a prayer group that is concerned about the welfare of the people. This lead to the further consideration that the prayer group is not primarly a human structure like a political, social or economic organism. It is basically the group of Jesus Christ. This very group started with Rev. E.K. Lamprey and the wife Grace Adowa Ampomaa Lamprey, Ampomah Darko, Mr. Tortemy, Madam Theresa Williams, M.A. wiafe, Mr. F.O. Squire and Rev. Enest Akpaloo including some youths and wives of the rest leaders (members).

The Divine Ametepey who made available his apartment for the work of God. All those took

place after he had left Aladura Church at Nima near the big channel for caring off fluids. It was later on reconstituted as a church known as Divine Church of Canaan in 1969, through Divine Revelation, and inspiration of the Holy Spirit and this organization was founded and spiritual head of K. Lamptey as the sole founder and spiritual head of the church at kotobabi – Accra.

Through the instrumental means of Madam Susana Oko Mensah and left quietly without any problem. The people who started the church is of apostolic faith for it rests on the foundation of the apostolic and prophets. This brings us to the means of the church life and its continuing function it draws its life from Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, but it does so through the word and from which it gets life and by which it is nourished and sanctified. Rev Emmanuel Kofi Lamptey wanted to emphasize on salvation by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ that was why he named the church Divine church of Canaan. Also through the gifting or the potentials in the leader, the gifts attracted more people to the church. The church is alive up till now. They later started worshipping in the wooden structure and later change into concrete blocks.

The pioneers of the church were totally 9 adults, 4 youths and 8 children totally 21. As members of the church including the Rev. Emmanuel .K. Lamptey. The early teaching of the church was based on prayer, fasting and studying of the word of God and other activities that is related to the gospel of Christ Jesus. Also teaching of salvation and atonement of Jesus Christ. The foundation was laid by Bishop E.H. Anaman founder and leader of Pentecostal Association of Ghana on 6th August 1988. Actually the whole organization started in the house of Robert Ametepey in 1971 that is the church's 1st Anniversary in 1971. Organized in Accra at the church premises.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH THROUGH REVIVAL.

As the church started growing, he led his members to organize revivals in the church and organizing programmes which would facilitate the growth of the church. If the need be home cells new create for the members of the church we have, they lived or stayed. Through that they make more impact in the lives of the peoples. The revival only takes place at the church premises at kotobabi.

4.1 THE FIRST MISSION JOURNEY OF REV EMMANUEL K.LAMPTEY.

He began his first-evangelistic journey was in 1976. Ohiman Mantey in the Easton region. The purpose was to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to plan a church. He was there with help of a Christian brother, whose name cannot be recollected and that Christian brother was a teacher of the local authority primary school there and the church was established in 1976. The church was able to cultivate a farm to produce maize, cassava, okro and paper in the farm. The purpose of cultivation the farm was to help those who were not working so that they can have a career or job to do. Also to support them financially and the church as whole

the leader was posted there did his best but due to certain unforeseen circumstances or challenges the church could not stand on its feet. And there was no active member who can talk care of the church and the farm. The leads to the collapsed of the church in 1978.

4.2 THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF REV. E.K. LAMPTEY.

After setting up a branch of the Divine Church of Canaan at Ohiman Mantey, he left for Somanya Krobo Odumasi also in the Eastern region in Ghana In 1978. There he established another branch and a farm. As time went on the church and the farm were handed over to a very energetic young man called. He lead the church for almost 3 years and he was latter transferred by the company in which he worked to another town. Here also on achieve member was found to manned the church and the farm but it very vibrant church at that time. They members could not care for the church. This to the dying of the church in 1980.

4.3 THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF REV. EMMANUEL KOFI LAMPTEY.

At James Town, a suburb of Accra was the next evangelism missionary place. He went there to established a branch at James Town. One member of the church was asked to lead the church. Early members of the church are eighteen (18) in number. The name of the elder of the church is not known now. They were 5 women, 3 men and 10 other people including the Elder children. He won many souls but because he was lacking administrative skills, some members help him to attend one of the weekend classes which was organized by Pentecostal Association of Ghana (Seminars). So that he could enhance his ability in Administration in the town. But due to misunderstanding between the Elders of the church and he the Elder, the membership in the church began reducing gradually. All these places souls were warn to the glory of Almighty God but the Elders were not mature in Spiritual matters enough to disciple the members in the churches and that has lead the Collapsed of this branches of church. It also becomes a challenge to the authorities of the church and the leadership as what. Except the one at the Headquarters. Which is alive today?

The message of his mission was that Jesus Christ is lord and savior of mankind. He did emphasis on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ including the salvation of the soul of the people.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE TEACHING AND DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH

GOD

The church believes in God as the father and creator of the Universe, he is one and the Only God who is three in one God. God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

JESUS CHRIST

The Doctrines about Jesus Christ is that he is the son of God who came into the Universe through the Virgin Mary and Joseph because of the sinful and nature of man.

That by him man can see God and have salvation through obedient and the law of Almighty God. Matthew 3:17

HOLY SPIRIT

The church believes that the Holy Spirit is the inspirer of the word of God. Timothy 3:16. the Holy Spirit is the comforter as Christ said I am going to the father, but the comforter will be with you. John 14:16, 26. the understanding of the each is that the Holy Spirit links their faith in the lord, to make known who God is in his doings or acts. Such as miracle, grace, mercy, prosperous and the love He has for the entire church or children which brings more trusts and importation of hope ion the lord. Romans 15:13

THE NEW BIRTH

The church believes in the New birth or being born again in the Christ Jesus or the work of regeneration in relation to a man who repents. That to any one who believed on the name of Jesus Christ John 1:12,13; 3:5, 6 Romans 3:1 Act 13:39, II Corinthians 5:14,21.

SALVATION

The church believes that Salvation is of God and this through the only name of Jesus Christ and also through faith and that repentant is necessary to salvation. Then also it is offered to all men. Psalm 13:2-5 and Titus 2:11 salvation means to the church as to be saved.

SANCTIFICATION

The church believes in Holiness and it is the work of the Holy Spirit in relation to the believers. By setting apart for the service of God and it is effected through the word of God. Which leads or guides to holiness and through that salvation is received. And it is necessary to inherit the Kingdom of God.

1 Peter 17:17, 19, Romans 6:22, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 1 Corinthians 6: 9 – 11.

BAPTISM

The church believes in the water baptism as the initial rite in becoming a Christian and it is stated in Matthew 28:19-20 Acts 2:38. it is by the act of immersion. And it is sanctified by Christ Jesus Matthew 3:13-15, Luke 3:21, Mark 16:15,16.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The church believes in Holy Communion because when Jesus was leaving this earth, he instituted the Lords supper that in union remembrance of him, the apostles of the congregation partake till his second coming.

As it is instituted by Christ. Matthew 26:26-30 1 Corinthians 11:20-34, 2 Corinthians 6:16

HEALING

The church believes in divine healing as an act of restoration of health and it is given as a gift that through prayer and through the word of God. The power is given to the apostle to heal the sick. So is the church. That is the state of being sound in body, mind and soul. Psalm 107:20; 1 Corinthians 12:9, James 5:14,15; Matthew 10:1, Exodus 15:26, Deuteronomy 7:15 and Proverbs 4:22, Isaiah 55:5, Acts 14:8, Psalm 147:3, Matthew 4:23-24.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The church believes in the great commission. By making of disciples and spreading of the gospel to all over the world. As it commanded by Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Luke 24:47, Act 2:42.

5.1 THE PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH

BAPTISM

The church believes in baptism by immersion which is the means of admitting a person into a Christian church by dipping him or her in water. Before baptism, the church allows that person to accept Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior and Lord. The person to be baptized will be coming to church for 6 months, learning and knowing what baptism mean before he or she will be baptized by the pastor. After baptism the person is expected to love a new life in the lord, he or she becomes a full member in the church with baptismal certificate and a file.

HOLY COMMUNION

The church celebrates the Holy Communion on a Sunday once monthly. Those who are qualified to participate in the communion are those who have searched their hearts thoughts and emotions. Confession of sins must be done before participating in the Holy Communion. They must attend communion class for one week before attending the communion.

FASTING AND PRAYER

The church believes in fasting because it is really important to every believer. The members are requested to abstain from all or certain foods as in observing a Holy day or being set apart for special occasion. And to some circumstances like stomach problem. One can eat very little. Prayer is also done through the activities of fasting and prayer means an act of speaking to God for something wants and in doing that one can kneel, stand or sit down when praying to God, for the bible states it in the book of Psalm 109:4 that man must give him self unto prayer Matthew 21:22 also declares that man must believe in prayer and shall receive what he or she desired for and acts 6:4 says that we should give ourselves continually to prayer. So for the church to obey by their doctrines or teaching and rules they must abide by it to receive Gods. Blessing from above.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

The church worships the lord with praise in a joyful way or manner. They do so because of what God has done for them and for what God is about to do for them. The church is to praise God for his glory including the thanksgiving, blessing and praise for redemption dominates in all. They also stand on what David said in Psalm 103:1-22, about praising the lord for the passion he has for his children. Therefore, it encourages them to praise him all the time. And Psalm 150:1-6 also says the lord should be praised in his Sanctuary and mighty heaven, and his act of power so the lord means a lot beyond themselves to the Almighty God.

THE TEACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

The church believes in imparting instruction, knowledge and communicate knowledge religious truth or other matters. It is done by their Pastors or preachers. They believes that teaching is the gift of God. Ephesians 4:11 and to clear doubts and difficulties concerning Christian observances, the sacraments, and other rituals and for receiving from scripture and demonstration that this is the very Christ that the things relating to the messiah have been completed in Jesus Ezra 7; Matthew 23, Heb 5:12.

DISCIPLINE

The church believes in discipline as a means of correction, teaching, rebuking and training that develop self control. As the bible talks about it in 2 Timothy 3:16 and Hebrew 12:11 that no discipline seems pleasant at the time, but very painful. Then later produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hence, the church based on it to check everyone, whether you are a member of the church or not. The church make some members dress decently respect both adults and children. Anyone who forms a habit to dress improperly is called by the head pastor himself he makes he advice the person to understand why he or she must not dress in that mode. Also to present yourself very presentable among the individuals and in the church as whole.

A disciplinary committee overseas that discipline is maintained in the church, those who disregard the rules of the church are either suspended or lose their positions. Some are exempted from taking part in any activities of the church until they repent and promise to be of good behavior. The discipline measures are taken so that members will learn a lesson from them.

The various groups in the church are as follows: the Teens, Youths, Adults and children's also they have visitation team, the choir, the ushers, the men fellowship, the women fellowship and all have their days of meeting. All the groups play their parts well. When it is their turn to do so. Every year the church holds a general church programmes in a place to be announced before time. Every brand is expected to attend the programmes.

APPENDIX 'E'

5.2 A TYPICAL PROGRAMME OF THE CHURCH.

During this programmes they fast for 13 days which leads to revival and all members and other invited people participate in it. This very programme is usually called Taborah Service. Which is held by the Divine church of Cannan? And it is prepared by the Head Pastor. Under the theme: BREAKING AWAY FROM THE PAST.

DIVINE CHURCH OF CANNAN

13 DAYS REVIVAL – FINAL DAY

16TH AUGUST 2003

THEME: BREAKING AWAY FROM THE PAST.

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Inspirational Hymn

1ST Bible Reading (English) Isaiah 43:18-21

(Twi)

(Ga)

Past. Baddo
 Senior Elder. Rebecca Nortey
 Past Baddo
 Bro Steve Nyarko
 Senior elder janet ansah
 7 Mod. Mercy narthey
 Song By divnine choristers

2nd Bible reading (English) luke 5: 36-29 stst Diana Lamptey
 (Twi) snr Eld Dords Ofei
 (Ga) 7 Mod. Mercy Narthey
 Song Divine women fellowship

Love greetings / welcome song

praise team

Praises and worship
 Sermon
 Announcement
 Silver collection
 Prayer of Intercession / anointing
 Appeal for funds
 Goodwill message
 Closing prayer
 Benediction

Bro Kwame, Sister Ruth Diede Afua
 past Samuel asiaw
 church secretary
 Bro Kwame / Sister Afua Diana
 pastor Jacob Akumanyi
 past pastor E. apaloo
 head pastor E. Apaloo
 deaconess Theresa Williams
 Head Pastor E. Apaloo

MC's Pastor Samuel Larbi
 Evans John Marfo

For these programme is to organize the members of the church and from other churches to participate at this very important meeting of believers, for it is where men meet and bearing gifts and as a sign of Gods favor.

Because of this the church goes out to organize this to help each and every one who get involved. It is time God answer prayers and meet the needs of people. Joshua 19:22 Judges 8:18-19. Which also means meeting at the mount of God (Taybuhir) To fortified with protective walks and it is situated at the borders.

Appendix 'D'

5.3 A TYPICAL SUNDAY SERVICE PROGRAMME

Time: 9am – 12 noon

WORSHIP / OPENING PRAYER

1 st Bible reading	Eccle 12:1-4
Song	Divine Choir
2 nd Bible reading	matthew 28:16-20
Song	women fellowship
The creed	all
Love greetings	all
Praise	gospel band
Sermon	
Announcement	church sec.
Collection etc.	
Tithes	
Appeal for fund	
Head pastor remarks	
General prayers / closing prayer	
Benediction	head Pastor E. Apaloo MC: Ishmael larbi

Appendix 'C'

5.4 A TYPICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE PROGRAMMES

Programme towards memorial and weed off
Church service at the church auditorium

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

1. Bishop Isaac Wontumi	Adviser / Past President (Caic)
2. Bishop S.K. Martey	Ct. Accra –Reg. Chairmen (Caic)
3. Rev. Eleazer Tetteh	Sec. Greater Accra Reg. (Caic)
4. Rev. Ernest Tetteh	Head Past. D.C.C
5. Rev. Beatrice Forson	National Treasure (Caic)
6. Rev. Fredrick Asare	Founder / Leader C.F.M

ORDER SERVICE

1. Worship	Worship Team
2. Processional Hymn Cl 262	Rev. Ernest Apaloo

3. Opening Prayer	Rev. Fredrick Asare
4. Cl 47	Past. Samuel Larbi
5. Special Bible Reading	Jeremiah 18:1-8
	English – Sec. Hennery Osei Kesse
	Ga - Snr. Eld. Mercy Nartey
	Twi - Past. Samuel Larbi
6. Song	Divine Choir
	Divine Women Fellowship
7. The Creed	All
8. Love Greetings	All
9. Praises	Praise Team
10. Song	Bethel Choir
11. Sermon	Bishop Isaac Wontumi
12. Announcement	Church Secretary
13. Offertory / Special Thanksgiving	All/ Rev. Eleazer Tetteh
14. Good Will Messages	Invitees / Head Past. Apoloo
15. Song	Victory Generation Choir
16. Prayers For The Departed Souls	Bishop Isaac Wontumi
17. Vote Of Thanks	Snr. Eld. Mercy Nartey
18. Closing Hymn CL20	Rev. James Adjei
19. Closing Prayer	Rev. Beatrice Forson
20. Benediction	Bishop Isaac Wontumi
Mc	Hennery Osei Kesse

CHAPTER SIX

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. 1st Corinthians 14:26.

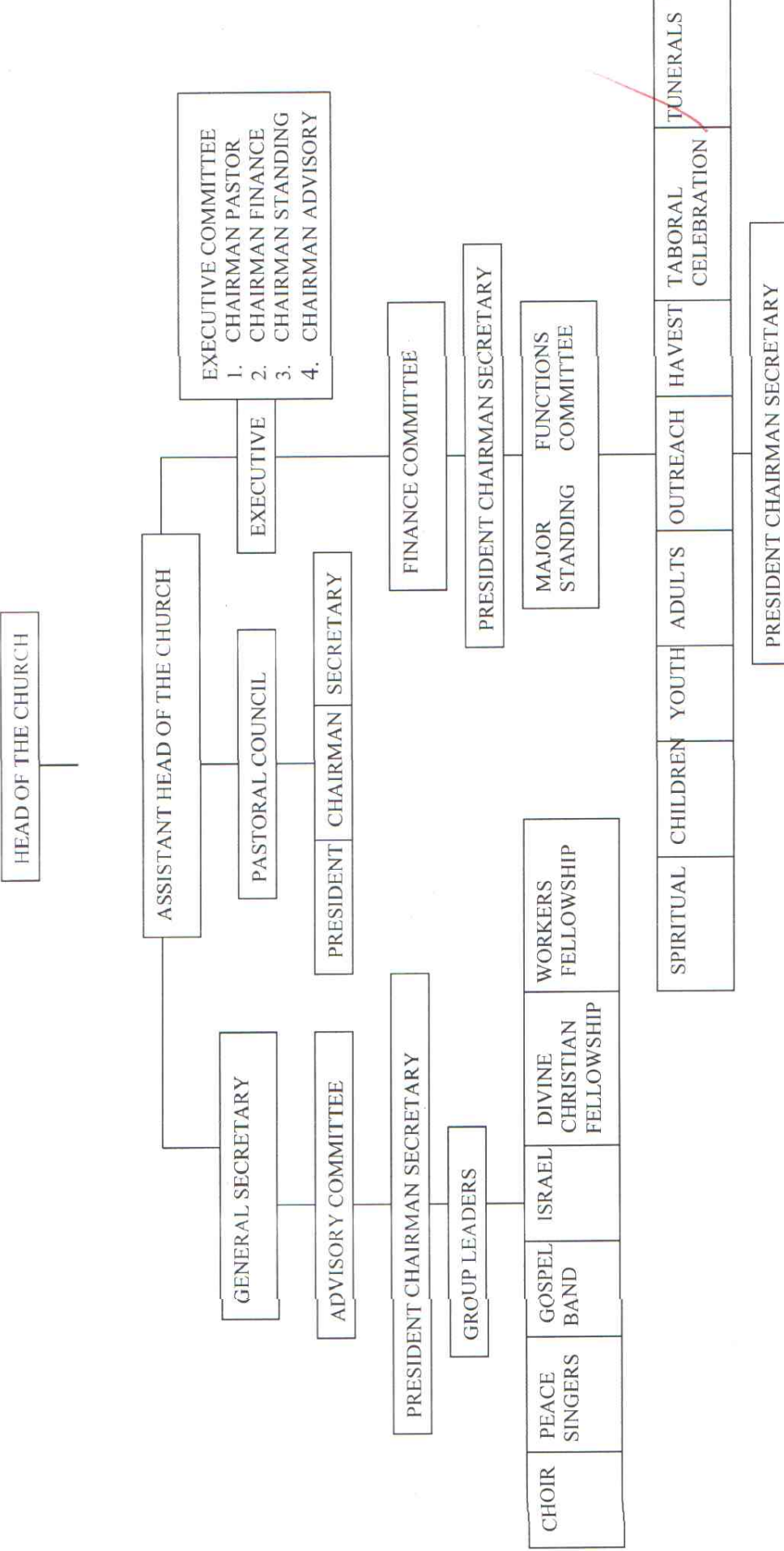
A church is not always a just worshipping congregation, but rather a complex of organization. This include church ,organization with which the Pastor works directly with the church council. Finance Committee, advisory committee, standing committee, executives and other group or department that brings about the governance. All these are based on team work. Therefore the congregation plays a major role in the church. Hence the church is structured along side with the structures of the Civic Organization. These very structures display the administrative and financial policies and procedures of Divine Church of Canaan. As we can see it through the church's constitution, rules and regulations (Bye laws)

6.1 The structure of organization

Overall unified organization.

6.1 THE STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZATION OVER ALL UNIFIED ORGANIZATION.

DIVINE CHURCH OF CANAAN HEAD QUARTERS OVERALL UNIFIED ORGANIZATION



CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS

6.2. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

The leadership of the church has a strong sense of purpose that's Centered upon God. The leadership also made use of teaching Volunteers because they some times have a strong sense or ownership of their church and may see it my church and not our church. Just like managing professionals, the leadership of the church takes commitments to stay the course in a consistent course in the mist of conflict and frustration.

The church is always founding himself or herself in difficulty situation that keep them on toes. The leadership has the following vision, knowledge energizer, learning, maturity, and perseverance, love their call, listening, followers and no fear of failures. The leadership believes in the five fold ministry which is stated in the book of Ephesians 4:10-12, 1 Corinthians 12:1-10, 27-31 and Romans 12:5-12.

Training and Disciplining leaders. The best training is their realization of their dependence on God and each other. And the growth of their devotional life coupled with their accountability will make them the disciple that our lord will greatly use. The capability of the leaders is teachers of the various departments in the church. Some also perform the roles of intercessors of the church, counselors, chairman or chairperson in the church's various groups committees. They provide financial support to the church and esteemed the leaders very highly in love. They are lead by reason of experience and wisdom and they are well in turn to his gifts and abilities and also will truly desire to grow in them.

6.3 THE PASTORAL EDUCATION

The pastoral education is very important to them. The pastor is educated in two ways that is the formal and informal process. Where by the pastor or leaders are informed so that the pastors can be equipped for the purpose of bringing the people of God to the concern. Therefore the pastor always read resources and attend seminars organized by the Christian organization in Ghana and visitors from abroad. To further encourage and challenge each other. That they may spend more time to teach and learn. They are training and equipping their conscious.

The pastor is educated by knowing the vision and mission statement are the instruction to build the model. The pastor attends soul theological colleges and seminaries and to equipped them. Therefore the leadership requires the practice of love and care. This is the fuel to the call and attitude the pastors are to be model. The pastor are also trained provide bible teaching materials, bringing children to Christ, help prepared children for church membership and help relate bible principles to every day life. The pastor are also trained theologically, socially and spiritually be build them up. Also to be abreast with time.

6.4. THE ROLE OF THE LAY PEOPLE.

The lay people in the church are usually called Volunteers who help the church in diverse ways. They are also part of the members of the church the played a major role in the church

and hold positions. Some of them become a home calls leaders who always ministered unto people living within the community through that they can increase in membership. They are committed to certain function in the church as leaders of the various committees in the church; they supplement the role of the pastor when the pastors are engaged in other activities some where.

To corporate with leaders (pastors) and with the people of God and the diversity of gifts in the community, as pastoral care has shifted from the ordained leadership to the level of fellowship itself and it has pastoral dimensions, from house groups and bible study to liturgy worship and catechism. Looking at external relationship of the congregation in the community. Managing the resources efficiently.

Sociologically, the congregation and the lay people is caught up in and affected by wider social changes.

They also helped in the work of Evangelism and caring for the sanctuary or temple to be clean always and the arrangements of everything in the church. Some of them act as interpreters and Sunday teachers or leaders in the various groups in the church.

6.5. THE CHURCH TODAY AND THE FUTURE.

The strength of the church based on the numerical and branches.

The Journey of the church has not been easy at all. The has come along way in ministry. Because all the branches of the church have ceased functioning except the one at the headquarters. The total of the membership is about 50. The children are five, youth are ten, men fifteen and the women twenty. But all the men and women helps the church in various ways to keep the church going. They some times organize revivals to keep the members alive in Christ Jesus. But as at now only few are able to minister the word of God and the rest are being trained through disciple making. Therefore some times the members goes beyond the number and sometime it comes the average level. According to the observation by the Head Pastor those who come to the church are those who comes fro prayers and as result the church is observing them very careful and hoping that they would stayed and become a member of the church. The church is yet to reconsider the reestablishment of other branches again. The present and future of the church always abide conditioned in the minds of the leaders and the entire congregation. By this effort the word of God will spread to the whole or in Africa. Making sure to accomplished the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is the goal of the church.

The church has purpose to establish schools and educate members in the church and those outside such as the one established the late founder. E.K Lamptey. Neupert Day Nursery preparatory School on the very compound of the church.

Farming is another goal of the church. The purpose is to get food all times for the poor, to

create employment for the members of the church and outsiders. So that they can erect their own wealth and also establishing branches training every preacher and teacher who comes along their mind concerning the truth in the church and where ever they found themselves they would self sufficient in their undertakings. Through that many can learn trade by themselves. To support the church also with the money, gifts and talents etc.

The church is now teaching to reformation and to mount up new strategies to revamp the church with new ideas.

6.6 **OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION**

The leader of the church has been able to play major roles and has acquired skills in leadership even though it is not one of the popular churches at Kotobabi with in this present time of ours. The leader and his elders have made an effort to equipped every member to participate in the activities of the church and to have a good social relationship with those who are not members. They are formulating plans to help the growth of the church and to make every member a disciple for the lord and happy in caring love, peace and respect or honour.

However it is over when that some members do not continued to stayed in the church for along years. The attitude of the some of members are not corresponding with Christian teachings. The authority work to hard to bring more people in to the church and to open more branches both in Accra and beyond.

The reason why the early stations or branches at Somanya, Ohima Mantey and James Town did not established well due to the causes and should be aloes that should guide move from one prayer camp to another. As a result, the church is keeping an eye on them hoping that they will retrace their step and join the church once for all. *why?*

The leadership has purposed in their mind or consciousness to revive the dead branches at James Town, Ohinam Mantey and Somanya Krobo. Odomasi and other new once abo at various places to be known soon when directed by the Holy Spirit. *why?*

The present and future of the church always purposed in the consciousness of the leaders and the congregation. It is in their mind that the word of God will spread to the whole world or in Africa. Achieving the great commission. (Matthew 28:18-20) is the goal of the church. It is in the plane of the church that the churches establishes school and educate members in the church and those outside. Creating job avenues through farming is another aim of the church.

The reason is to get some of the employed and to get food at all times for the poor and to care for all preachers and teachers who pass on their way so that no other preacher or teacher will be able to deceive them in the church or the church change the plan of the church into a very model one. To mobilize those with handy work to do.

6.7 THE EFFECTS AND IMPACT OF THE CHURCH.

A. TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

The teacher shared with pastors the work of edifying believers. Because they are associated with moral instruction and the practical application of the revelation. By the instruction and teachings of the word of God and its understanding it has given the enlightenment to the members of the church and those who paid visit to them. They create great awareness among the members of the church with this the members of the church had experienced a great transformation in their lives. Despite whatever that is going on in their lives. The teaching of the church does impact wisdom and knowledge to the lives of the people including the environment in which they live. The teachers are very inspirational and down to earth with the word of God within the African context. The teaching aspires is also a gift of the Holy Spirit.

B. THE PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH

The practice of the church has also given deep understanding of what the church is doing or practicing. They are all needed to be practice that makes the member of the church feel that they belong to the kingdom of God. They are very safe in the hand of God. The practice qualifies them to be members of the church. It helps them to grow spiritually, physically and emotionally. Also in the understanding of the things of God. The teachings and practice bring about healing and reformation in the lives of them all. It makes them disciplined and very faithful to God and the church. All this makes them disciples for Christ and the church. As they believe in the Holy Communion, baptism, teaching of the word of God, Holy Spirit and other practices that enhance the lives of the members of the church. Through all this they understand the redemptive work of Christ including evangelism, edification, benevolence, giving services and leadership as their source. Also seeing the minister and ministers that Jesus Christ is the minister of the church and the various offices of the minister.

C. FAITHFUL TO THE SCRIPTURE

The leaders are faithful to the scriptures but some of the members are not faithful to study the scriptures because of their laziness and others lack the importance and values of the scriptures because most of them are new. It will take time to catch up with the understanding. That is why the bible class is organized by the leaders to teach the members of the church. The church is concerned about service of God and the individuals who are ready to proclaim the

word of God to set free those found in bondage. So that the commission work and the mission work would be accomplished. The church must continue the work of Jesus Christ. That they would testify about what the scriptures have done or revealed to them. Here the work of the church and ministers who lead in its performance.

6.8 THE CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS **(BYE LAWS)**

Preamble

Through Divine Revelation, and Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Divine Church of Canaan was founded by Rev. Emmanuel .K. Lamptey as the church at Kotobabi Accra in the year 1969.

ARTICLE 1

TITLE AND LOCATION

The church so constituted by these rules and bye laws, shall be the Headquarters Divine church of Canaan. Herein after referred to as the church and situated at Kotobabi suburb in the Ayawaso District of Accra in the Greater Accra Region and located at Abavana Down, opposite the former academy of accountancy building.

ARTICLE 2

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

THESE SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Section 1

To worship God in Spirit and in truth and to fellowship with one another while spreading the word of God, and teaching the virtue of righteous Christian living in Ghana. To propagate and disseminate the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to all hemispheres of the Globe, winning souls or converts for Christ as He commands the world and believers. Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20.

To seek the spiritual welfare of all those who are in need. To associate or affiliate with any organization or bodies having similar objectives.

To set up branch assemblies of the church throughout Ghana and to receive and welcome the teaching of the tenets of the church as basis on which they shall administer the church.

To promote and encourage the establishment of nurseries and if possible schools vocational centers, clinics and farming for the enhancement of our Christian obligation to society and the nation as a whole.

To foster fraternity, unity and peace among the members, friends, families within the communities they live.

To educate members to know of their civic responsibilities to the state as citizens. To aid

members in their difficulties both spiritually and material where the need arises and to encourage the formation of group fellowship namely: the choir, singing groups, men and women fellowship Sunday school as well as bible classes for adults and juvenile members of the church.

In order to achieve these objectives, the church may do or authorize to be done such acts or thing as it may consider necessary for the furtherance of these objectives.

SECTION 2

THE EDUCATION POLICY

The church has resolved to set up Day care centers in the entire Assembly where the need shall arise, infuse into the youth the word of God and to train the youth to acquire the basic skills that will enable them to be useful top themselves, their parents, communities and the state to which they belongs.

ARTICLE 3

1. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the church is open to all, irrespective of sex, race, colour, or Creed and subjects to the jurisdiction of the church. It is infact God's purpose through the miracle of redemption to weld together a divided estranged humanity into living unity.

Colossians 3:11

2. qualification of members. Regeneration is the prime requisite for membership in the church.

The church of God is identified as them that are sanctified in Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:2

This requirement stems from the fact that the church is an organism and not an institution. It is the fellowship of those who participate with Christ in vital union, who are by one spirit, baptized in to one body

1 Corinthians 12:13

Only those who are joined to Christ can be members of his church.

Essentially a member shall be one accepted into the church and possessing a membership card. Such a member shall be charged with the responsibility of helping the church both spiritual and materially for it's growth and shall in turn be entitled to all rights and privileges of the church.

That all members shall achieve to and abide by all rules and practices of the church set out as the guiding principles.

ARTICLE 4

SUPREME AUTHORITY.

We see Jesus Christ set by God Ephesians 1:12.

The government of the church and the Conduct of its business shall be vested in the founder spiritual Head in conjunction with the executive committee carrying out function of the church through the Administration and financial committee respectively.

The executive committee shall be composed.

- (i) spiritual leader present
- (ii) chairman of Financial Committee
- (iii) Chairman of the Administrative Committee
- (iv) One Elder and member of the congregation.

Meeting – executive committee shall meet once every three months and shall have two thirds (2/3) of the total membership forming a quorum.

Shall do it best to attain the objectives set forth by the church and shall project against the dissipation or misappropriation of the church funds or any extravagant tendencies.

Executive committee shall have power to hold acquire, convey or recover, assign, surrender, demise, sue or be sued in respect of all movable or immovable properties belonging to or have after acquired by the church.

The executive committee shall have power to make regulation for the smooth running of the church and shall have right to appoint its own sub-committee approval of the spiritual Head.

Duties: these shall be as following exercise supervision over all groups and societies of the church. No groups or society shall be recognized without first receiving approval of the Administrative committee.

It shall be responsible for general discipline in the church.

The committee shall ensure that the temple and annexes are always in good order and repair.

The committee shall be responsible for the management and care of all church properties.

The committee shall meet as after as necessary but must meet as least once every month.

The committee shall be responsible for settling disputes in the church.

The composition of administrative committee

The administrative committee shall be made up of the following.

- (i) The Chairman
- (ii) The Secretary

3 members of the church bringing the total to 5 in member any three of these officers shall form a quorum.

ARTICLE 6

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall be responsible for administer all funds of the church.

Members of this committee shall comprise the following-

- (a) Chairman (Spiritual Head)
- (b) Secretary (Substantiate Finances)
- (c) Administrative Committee's Chairman – members and 2 (two) others.

Duties of the finance committee

The duties of the finance committee shall include

1. The Administrative of all church funds by collection monies and disbursing such monies in the interest of the church.
2. The promotion of sound methods of raising church funds.
3. The explanation of the financial needs of the church members.
4. The committee is not permitted to do anything that would leads to incurring debt of any nature. Additionally, no contract beyond 5,000.00 (Five Thousand Cedis) should be entered into without prior consultation with and approval of the executive committee.
5. The Treasure shall transfer amount in excess of 5,000.00 into the church banks Accounts.
6. prepare a financial statement of account every June and December every year for the security of the executive committee.
7. the treasure shall hold an imprest not exceeding ₦5,000.00. adult committee 3 members shall be appointed to audit the account of the church at regular intervals of six months durations. However, members shall be informed of the Financial Standing of the church once every six months.

ARTICLE 7

BANKING:

The church shall operate Account with any bank to be determined by the finance Committee and approved by the executive committee with the consent of the founder spiritual Head. All monies ~~is~~ excess of 5,000.00 Cedis received by the treasure shall be deposited with the bank not later than 1 (one) week from the date of accept. Signature- the following shall be the sign to the bank accounts. The spiritual Head together with any of the two sign here under may sign for any withdrawals viz. The founder or Spiritual Head, the General Secretary and financial Secretary, under no circumstances should any withdrawal be effected without the signature advising the Banking authorities and the reasons for such a change before monies can be with drawn with the express approval of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 8

FINANCING THE CHURCH

The source of the church's finances shall include the following:

Offering
Monthly dues
Annual harvest
Donations
Pledges
Tithes

ARTICLE 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Pulpit Announcements: details of announcements from the pulpit shall be read by the church Secretary, however the Spiritual Head or his representative shall have the authority to announce and emphasize ~~and extra~~ ordinary matters which should be brought to the notice of the congregation for observation.

ARTICLE 10

(A) ADMISSION OF PASTORS

It is stipulated that persons from other denomination seeking membership to the pastorate shall give a clear, reasonable explanation for taking such a move.

1. That their ecclesiasts status and the cause of their leaving their churches shall be investigated and if found satisfactory they shall be accepted.
2. Such new entrants shall undergo a short course of training to introduce them to the doctrinal system of the church.
3. A pastor so admitted with the requisite training and having advanced to the level as required by the church, shall have undergone biblical screening as main trained by Paul in his Epistles to both Timothy and Titus. 1 Timothy 3:1-8, Titus 1:7-9
4. The response of the pastor shall frequently speak on the part of the church as love. We love him because he first loved us 1 John 4:19
5. Matthew 18:4, James 4:10, Peter 5:6
6. They shall be liable to transfer from one station to another.

(B) THE ELDERS

The definition being a title or honour and respect given to person in authority.
Genesis 24:2 Acts 14:23, Ex 3:16, 4:29.

(C)THE DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

The calling of a Deacon or of deaconesses is as sacred as any other calling in the church. The calling of the deacons has mainly to do with temporal matters in the church, and this is true also of the deaconesses, but she will also have certain Spiritual duties not involving church Government, but vital, particularly to the sisters in the church.

The duties of the deacons

1. The deacons are responsible to keep the sanctuary within and without and all its furniture in a clean, tidy and orderly condition. They will arrange to the lighting and seating arrangement before members begin to arrive and where necessary advise peoples where to sit.

They should attend to all such natural matters in a quite and discreet way avoiding drawing attention to themselves. Deacons will be required to supervise the taking of offering and show in the checking of the money.

Where there are a number of Deacons in the church one of them will be appointed responsible Deacon and he will take the lead among the deacon ensuring that all duties are showed fairly and that some is always available to serve in each meeting.

Every deacon must at all times be subject to the local elders. Should a Deacon transfer to another town or church, he will only be allowed to function as a Deacon, if the committee of trustees is satisfied that there is need for such a ministry there. The responsible Deacon can be reviewed and changed by the local elders from time to time so that all may share this authority in turn.

DEACONESSES

The scope of ministry from time to time she will be given the privileged and opportunity of ministering in public gathering service where both men and women are present. And no such occasion she will be expected to minister the Gospel or since exhortation to a life of Holiness and Godliness, seeking to build Christian character in those who are present. However, she will be free to speak with full authority when only sister are present, providing she does not overstep the decision laid down by the Elders.

There will be appointed by the Elder in consultation with the spiritual Head, a responsible Deaconess, and she will take the lead among the Deaconesses of the church. There is no difference in the nature of the calling but she will carry more responsibilities. Normally, she will serve for twelve months but she could be asked to continue for a further period.

The Deacons shall undertake wise visiting and faithful witnessing, and such work should be done tactfully in love and Holiness, care being taken to avoid any appearance of evil particularly where members of the opposite sex are concerned.

DISCIPLE MAKING

The word Disciple making discipline and discipleship are after used to refer to the same idea, but since discipline is occasionally confused with discipline and since discipleship for along time was used to refer to individual dedication, the word disciple making is here used. The definition of disciple making which includes both evangelism and edification is a deliberate process in which one older Christian deals personally with one or more other people, over an extended period of time guiding their experience so that they ultimately develop into Christians who are mature and able to do the same with other still. As Jesus Christ Commission the church Great Commission. Matthew 28:19-20. Mark 16:15-20.

ARTICLE 11

THE BREACH OF DISCIPLINE

1. MINISTERS

Disciplinary action against an offending minister shall be carried out by the Spiritual Head with advice and consent of the executive committee.

In the case of a charge of indiscipline leveled against any minister, the spiritual head shall cause to be investigated such offense which shall be carried out by a High powered panel, the composition of which shall be determined by the Spiritual Head. If the facts of the case of indiscipline is proved or established, the spiritual head shall refer the findings to the executive committee for necessary action.

A minister found guilty, may be rebuked, warned, suspended or demoted and a minister so suspended or demoted shall cease to perform the duties of his or her ministry, but shall not be prevented from attending worship unless the gravity of the misconduct so demand in all cases, the defendants shall be made to appear before the executive committee and shall be given an opportunity to defend him or herself and necessary calling witnesses. true believed is without the chastening hand of God. God himself discipline his children. No

MEMBERS

The settlement of disputes among members of the church and the enforcement of disciplinary action against offending members shall be the responsibly of the administrative committee which shall always institute careful investigation into each case.

Any member found guilty of an offence shall have sanctions imposed on him or her including warning suspension or demotion according to the gravity of the offence.

ARTICLE 12

TIME OF WORSHIP

1. Sunday shall be observed by all as a day of worship which starts from 9:00 am – 12:30 am.
2. there shall be evening services on Wednesday and Friday beginning at 6:30pm – 9:00pm
3. There may be special service as may be directed by the spiritual head, and members are obliged to attend.

ARTICLE 13

BIRTH AND NAMING

When a child is born to a full member of the church a naming ceremony shall be performed in the church and a special donation made to the child.

ARTICLE 14

BAPTISM

This shall be the initial rite in becoming a Christian it's mention here is quite conspicuous. Jesus Christ commanded it. Matthew 28:19. 3,000 (Three Thousand) at Pentecost were baptized (Acts 2:38) the church believers in water baptism by immersion.

ARTICLE 15

HOLY COMMUNION

1. when Jesus was leaving this earth He instituted the Lords Supper that in union reminiscence of Him, the apostles or the congregation partake, till his second coming Holy Communion must be regarded as the sacred means of Grace, in which we partake of the body and blood of Christ for the strengthening of faith. Personal preparation for the communion in self-examination is enjoined on all members (1 Corinthians 11:22-32). Participants are urged to attend the preparatory services.

ARTICLE 16

ANNIVERSARIES

The church shall observe types of anniversaries to commemorate different occasions on the Christian Calendar yearly. The dates, times and places of these observations shall be determined by the Spiritual Head in consultation with the executive committee. These anniversaries shall include the following.

- a. Easter- The celebration is preceded by 40 (forty) days of fasting and prayer intimated in Luke 5:34-35. the real past is the sacrifice of the personal will which is meant by the term afflicting the soul Isaiah 58:5, Ezra 8:21-23, Luke 4:1,2,14.

- b. Tabborarr – this is instituted to mark the Revival Crusade of the church and it is preceded by 13. (Thirteen) days white fasting Leviticus 16:29-31 other church Anniversaries shall be as follows:
 - a. Annual Church Harvest in November
 - b. Church Group Anniversaries.
 - c. Christmas Day Celebration

ARTICLE 17

RESIGNATION

Any Pastor officer or member who ceases to belong to the church through resignation or otherwise shall have no claim upon anything or be in anyway entitled to share, possess, keep or participate in any of the effects or property of any kind, real and personal including money of the church.

ARTICLE 18

BIBLE CLASSES

There shall be instituted bible classes to teach members (and non-members if any) to understand the word of God and encourage them to read the bible regularly.

Teacher- A bible class superintendent shall be appointed to direct the affairs of the classes. Classes shall be held at least once a week.

ARTICLE 19

- a. As God himself has instituted marriage from beginning of creation as stated in Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-24.
- b. The savior advocated the divine character of marriage apart from Civil Laws. He opposed divorces except for one cause. Matthew 5:28. these teaching make marriage binding and must kept Holy as enshrined in the teaching of the New Testament.
- c. Church member is encouraged, and this has to pass through the executive committee to enable it arrange periodical counseling for the couples so to be married.
- d. Every member shall have one and only one wife and husband.
- e. As New person seeking a membership in the church who has more than one wife shall be accepted and baptized into the fold but will neither be allowed to divorce any of the two previously married wives, nor to marry any other wife in addition to the one he had married.
- f. He shall not receive the Holy Communion. The body and blood of Jesus Christ.
- g. The church is fully licensed and recognized to conduct marriage ceremonies.

ARTICLE 20
FUNERALS

- a. At the death of a regular, permanent and recognized member, the church shall accord the deceased, burying rights with a shroud, ring, wreath, and a white hand-kerchief, however the Coffin shall be provided by the deceased family.
- b. The church shall attend the wake keeping and the other funeral rites of the deceased person, and a certain decided fixed amount shall be given to the deceased wife and children if the deceased shall be a husband or to the husband children should the deceased be a wife.
- c. The church shall arrange to hold a memorial service in honour of the deceased at the temple.
- d. A fully registered and recognized member entitled to benefit when the father or mother dies. In this eventuality, a certain fixed amount shall be donated to the bereaved person.
- e. If a fully member child dies, the church shall donate to him or her a certain fixed amount in the form of assistance.
- f. A member who dies and has to be buried in Accra the funeral ceremony shall be conducted, by a pastor, a priest or Evangelist or the minister in charge.
- g. Every member shall be required to be at his or her wake keeping as well as the burial ceremony and memorial service.
- h. If on the other hand the deceased it to be burial outside Accra, then church member or delegation shall be deputized to accompany the corpse for burial as may be decided by the administrative committee.
- i. Non registered or unrecognized member who attend church service spasmodically and fail in their duty to be so. Registered for recognition, yet fulfilling their normal obligations of monthly dues and other contribution shall in like manner receive no benefits or donation from the church should they be bereaved?
- j. It is instituted that a member shall send a written later or message to the administrative committee when he or she is bereaved,
- k. No dead body shall be brought to the temple for funeral rites.

ARTICLE 21.
THE SPIRITUAL HEAD / FOUNDER LEADER

- a. the constitution establishes that when the founder leader and the spiritual head dies, the church shall accord him full funeral rites and under write all the expenses.
- b. A church found shall be created to cater for his children who are in school to enable them to attain the highest education level. (University).
- c. A special fund shall be created for the maintenance of his widow and any allowances being enjoyed by the widow ceases if she becomes married there after.

ARTICLE 22

MODE OF ELECTION AND DIVINE INHERITANCE

- a. it is instituted that upon the death of the founder leader and Spiritual Head, the conceit of Trustees shall assemble at the Temple at a convenient time and with fasting and prayer asked God in who are hidden all the treasures of wisdom to show who to succeed him after nomination, ballots / election shall be made by a simple majority vote, all appointment and election in the church shall be by a simple majority vote.
- b. The chosen shall neither suite head to fable nor unless genealogies which minister questions rather than Godly edifying which is in faith so do. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart and of a good conscience and of faith unfeigned. Timothy 1:4-5.
- c. The trustees in conjunction with the members of the executive committee shall present the Head elect of the church to the congregation.
- d. He shall have the full support if the trustees, the executive and the congregation as a whole, who shall be his help and guide in the ministry.
- e. He shall be entitled to every benefit as head and leader of the church.
- f. In all instances the conceit of trustees shall accord the head Elect every benefit and guide in the ministry.

ARTICLE 23

THE CHURCH REGISTER

The church register containing the names and addresses of members, shall be faithfully recorded and kept in the custody of the minister in charge. Other particulars to be recorded include the date of admission, baptism, marriage and death.

ARTICLE 24

THE TRUSTEES

In established aboard of trustees to be responsible for giving guides, suggestion and admonition in order to up lift the church, the Board of Trustees shall be composed of not less than 7 (seven) and not more than 10 (ten) persons of good standing. And shall among themselves appoint their leader who shall be designated. Chief trustee they shall themselves fixed meeting days but it shall be at least once in four (4) weeks.

ARTICLE 25

CONTROL OF THE CHURCH PROPERTIES

All properties of the church including fund shall be controlled by the executive committee in collaboration with the trustees incase of any branch or group breaking away partly or an blue, all properties either movable, acquired in the name of the church, shall be retrieved from those breaking away or disassociation them. Selves from the church. Under no circumstances shall a member or members be permitted to break away with any church property or funds.

ARTICLE 26

THE SEAL OF THE CHURCH

The church shall have a common seal approved by the executive committee. The seal shall be used only with the approval of the executive committee and in the presence of the Spiritual Head and at least 2 (two) church trustees, including the chief trustees. The same shall sign and document to which the seal is affixed. The seal of the church shall be affixed to any church document. The seal shall be kept in this custody of the Spiritual Head.

ARTICLE 27

THE APPOINTMENTS

- a. The appointing authority for the various posts in the church shall be the executive committee. Such officers shall be given appointment letter.
- b. All such appointment shall be for a term of 3 (three) years, and subject to satisfactory work the appointment may be run for another term of 3 (three) years. But on no account shall the appointment be run by the same appointed for the third time.

ARTICLE 28

AMENDMENT

- a. this constitution is subject to amendment what so ever, whom the need arises but it must be borne in mind that it can be altered by two thirds majority of the membership, provided that the proposed alteration or a amendment shall have been reviewed by the executive committee.
- b. The constitution has received a sanction and acceptance for the administration of Divine church of Canaan with its Headquarters at Kotobabi Accra.

6.9 THE PERFORMANCE AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CHURCH

The church has gain much through their members of the church in general. All because the education that is going on as a training session among them and the church.

Hence most of them can occupy any position given to them during special occasion such as master ceremony, preaching the word of God, interpret, reading and doing the work of evangelist.

They have acquired skills to understand and control the children during service and the old ladies on the church.

There are no aged members of the church. The elders also play a major role in leadership position. The elder and deacon, deaconess are the supervise and guide them (young ones) in the church in the correct manner how to be humble in the lord work and not to be people has become and advantage to the church. The youths and some adults have embarked on evangelizing the people of the environment and individuals who are much interested in the church activities.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUGGESTION OR RECOMMENDATION

Upon this hard work and capabilities, personality and records, testimonies of his character and the ability to lead by then. Inputting together this brief, but detailed biography and upon the personal interview records and assessment and upon the commitment under taken I, as the student of Good News theological college and seminary, am sure that there are more to do for God and the church as whole must work hard towards the reviving of the church through the following.

- a. Evangelism which is the major work of the church. A committee should be established as soon as possible to avert the unforeseen challenges.
- b. Crusade committee should be established. This committee should prepare how to raise funds towards the growth of the church and opening of branches
- c. House or home calls should be created in the various homes of leaders so that they can win more souls through these processes.
- d. To organize film shows that can attract souls to Christ, the leaders can meet to discuss the ways to enhance the growth of the church and the pastors.
- e. The church must be a preaching church and Teaching, evangelism activities because where the church is not functioning in these aspects the church dies. It must also be a prayer church that by this the foundation of the church would be revived.
- f. The gifts, service and leadership must be the source of the ministry. The servant leadership must be involved as it was in the Biblical teaching and preaching times (Long ago).
- g. The church has a good or aim to be fulfilled on earth here. Hence the congregation and the leaders must cooperate to revive the church.
- h. The church should train more pastors, evangelism and other gifters. To enable them open more branches. The leaders must cultivate in the mind of the people ministry minded. So that they would purpose to win more souls. For the challenges God has already taken charge and is going to handle without any difficulty.

7.1 CONCLUSION

With the deduction from this very research work done it is very needful and important that this work has helped me and the leaders of the DIVINE CHURCH OF CANAAN to know much about the church. I thank all those who work tirelessly towards this project or research and its may concern and main purpose that this brief History of Divine Church of Canaan will help the up and coming leaders of the church and those who are interested in the growth of the African indigenous churches to see the challenges and the pains that the leaders went through with no support, no facilities but with the word of God and the Holy Spirit as their inspirer.

When God decide to used a vessel to his honour by the power of the Holy Spirit no matter

the background and education, the vessel honours the name of the Almighty. Deuteronomy 11:32.

Therefore in Joshua 24:27 state that the stone will be a witness against us etc. in other words this evidence or the History of what took place. I hope this very document would be very helpful to them all.

7.2 THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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